

## **Utilities and Sustainability Task Force**

Minutes from the 12/14/06 Meeting

**Next meeting: Jan. 18, 2007**

**In attendance:**

Deborah Gordon, Mayor of Woodside  
Barbara Pierce, Mayor of Redwood City  
Terry Nagel, Mayor of Burlingame  
Bill Dickenson, Belmont City Council  
Jerry Hill, San Mateo County Board of Supervisors  
Mario Panoringan, Colma-Daly City Chamber of Commerce  
Bruce Chamberlain, ABAG Energy Watch  
Kathy Lavezzo, PG&E  
Richard Napier, C/CAG  
Bob Cormia, Sustainable Silicon Valley  
Jill Boone, San Mateo County RecycleWorks (staff)  
Gina Blus, Facilitator (staff)

**Not in attendance:**

Sepi Richardson, Brisbane City Council  
Nicole Sandkulla, BAWSCA  
Mukesh Khattar, Oracle

**Guests:**

Joe La Mariana, San Mateo County RecycleWorks  
Kim Springer, San Mateo County RecycleWorks (new staff)

**Action items**

All: if possible, please try to arrive a few minutes before 3 pm. Our next several meetings should have very full agendas.

Staff: revise memo to address items below; prepare talking points

**Notes**

**Review of goals**

The task force directed that the draft goals, as set out in the CMEQ Agenda Report, be revised to reflect the following input:

- use the method that worked well with HOPE: start with a simple statement of the desired outcome and invite the cities to get involved; try to get approval of the initial concept and support for the mission
- think of numeric “targets” instead of goals
- don’t set specific targets at this time, but instead create a framework referencing AB32 and the regulatory requirements established by the state so the cities can start to understand what’s coming

- tell them we are working to develop specific criteria and will bring examples of what other cities are doing, how they are doing it and their actual and projected results
- emphasize the benefits of saving money and energy, starting at the local level and then at the county level; emphasize the economic opportunity at the county level
- introduce CO<sub>2</sub> reductions as the positive byproduct of saving energy, water and money, and explain why it is important to do
- be clear that the government has an active role to play in creating economic benefits from the green tech/green energy sector; it must partner with universities and the private sector (especially venture capitalists) to develop a new energy sector that is beneficial to the way we live, make money and care for the planet.
- underscore the role that local government must play for the state to reach its targets; local governments are in the best position to influence residents, for example
- explain earlier in the document why saving water saves energy

In the Energy Strategy,

- provide case studies and examples of how other cities and businesses are saving money by actively reducing water and energy use, and also reducing CO<sub>2</sub>, (e.g., the real estate savings achieved by Sustainable Silicon Valley members) and cashflow calculations like Sam Pierce's
- provide the cities with an array of options; provide something of value for all communities
- include numbers, implications, impact and costs for specific programs and make tradeoffs clear
- provide incentives, not penalties
- let cities know early on that they may wish to establish a baseline of energy usage and a tracking mechanism to measure and record their energy use
- give cities the tools they need to gather feedback on their actions, so they can make good energy choices
- let cities know which entity (perhaps Energy Watch) can help them measure, report and monitor their usage
- invite businesses to work with us and partner with us
- recognize business and civic leaders for their successful efforts
- even though it is outside our charter, let cities know that petroleum is half of the CO<sub>2</sub> equation, and that greening their fleets will have a dramatic effect on their reduction goals

### Discussion

Barbara has distributed white papers to her city council to build their basic knowledge about climate change prior to the Redwood City priority-setting session in early February. The white papers accompany these minutes, and will be posted on the website.

Bob noted that if usage is expected to grow at 1% per year for the next 20 years, it represents an increase over today of 22%. Reducing THAT number by 25% would equal a 35% reduction at today's usage rates.

Deborah mentioned Energy Resources 173A, a Civil and Environmental Engineering class at Stanford that covers many relevant topics – biomass, hydro, nuclear power and peninsula transmission lines. She would like the professor to visit and speak with USTF. A mini-course based on this or similar information might be an efficient way to bring county and city employees up to speed on the issues.

Kathy suggested looking at existing committees, the Chambers of Commerce, local leadership groups and the Progress seminar in April for countywide energy education opportunities (Energy Days). Mario offered to include energy training in the classes offered by the Colma-Daly City Chamber in the coming year.

Terri raised a concern about the pressure cities face for adding housing and population and the challenge it poses when overall energy use must drop significantly to meet the state CO<sub>2</sub> targets. Even if each incremental addition is small, the cumulative effect will be great. She suggested that new multifamily housing may need to be substantially more efficient than an equal number of traditional housing units. She suggested emphasizing Guiding Principles 8-10 (referring to future growth and land use planning) when addressing the issue.

Bob noted that adding multifamily housing will lead to an overall drop in average kilowatt hours per square foot (since multifamily units are generally smaller than single family homes), and an even greater drop in water usage (since there will be fewer lawns and gardens).

#### Outreach plan

Richard said that the effort to gain support for the energy strategy will start at C/CAG and CMEQ, which may be enough to bring several cities—perhaps one-half or two-thirds—on board. Richard will discuss the project at the City Managers meeting. A few cities (4-8) may need individual outreach to gain their support.

Kathy emphasized the importance of securing support from people at every level in the cities. She works with Public Works Departments to encourage energy efficiency, and said it works far better when they get a call from city leaders.

Barbara suggested getting some CMEQ members to present our recommendations at C/CAG, and sending out thorough notes which can be shared widely.

#### Future meeting topics

Energy- and water-saving program options will be presented in four parts, starting at the January meeting and continuing through April.

**January:** ways for cities to save money, use less energy and generate fewer GHGs in their own facilities (Public Works and Procurement should be invited to attend)

**February:** ways for cities to drive behavioral change through their regulatory powers (Planning Directors should be invited to attend)

**March:** ways for cities to partner with nonprofits, universities and the private sector to stimulate economic growth and to influence behavior in their communities

**April:** ways for cities to educate and change behaviors of their populace

The implications, impact and costs of each program will be included in the discussion to the greatest extent possible.

#### Roundtable

Bruce reminded us about the importance of the third element of sustainability, social equity, and suggested we actively include the development of green jobs as a key part of green tech economic opportunities.

Kathy described the new PG&E Climate Smart program, which will debut in March 2007. It will enable PG&E residential and commercial customers to voluntarily fund projects to offset the CO<sub>2</sub> related to their energy bill. This will reduce CO<sub>2</sub> by 2 millions tons per year, the equivalent of 350,000 vehicles.

Kathy, Jerry and the rest of the task force thanked Jill for her tireless work and enthusiasm for this project, and welcomed her ongoing participation as a member of the public.